



# PEACE INITIATIVE HANDBOOK

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*Changing the Culture of Violence in Prisons*



# PEACE INITIATIVE HANDBOOK

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## Can the culture of violence in prisons be changed?

If you lock up thousands of violent offenders who are armed with knives, blades and other weapons, violence seems to be inevitable. Shanks, pipes and blades make our facilities an armed camp. The jungle mentality that today's new, young inmates bring from the street and from Riker's Island, the New York

City Jail, has created a culture of violence in the New York State Prisons.

Some of the inmates and staff members feel the situation is hopeless.

To deal with this problem in Sing Sing, a special Violence Awareness Program was held in March 1998.

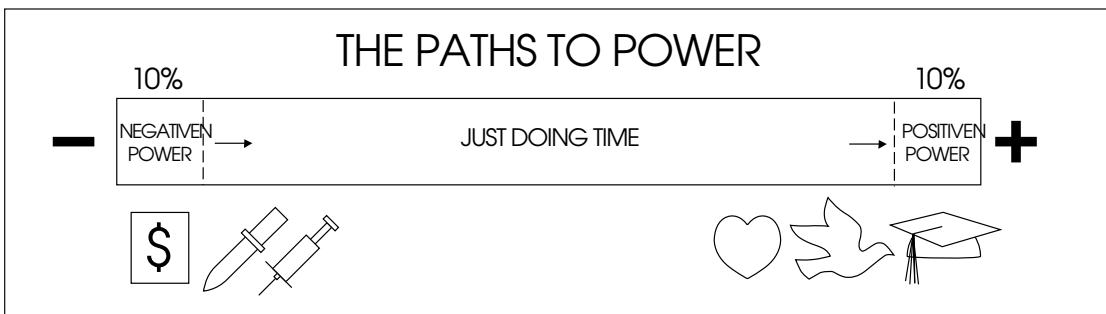
## The results have been dramatic

*Although official statistics are not yet available for the months following the program, the administration feels that violence has been reduced significantly and there is greater spirit of cooperation between inmates and staff. Inmates have also observed a dramatic decline in violence.*

## THE PROBLEM

Since AVP is a self-selected program, it tends to attract individuals who are already involved in programs and have already started on a positive path to power. In a prison like Sing Sing, this group represents about 10 percent of the population.

On the other hand, there is another 10 percent of the population that has chosen the negative path to power by trying to become the "biggest gangsters in the jail." This group is responsible for most of the violence in the facility. It is unlikely that any of them will



ever sign up for an AVP workshop.

In the middle, between these groups are about 75 to 80 percent of the population who are on the fence and are "just doing time."

To make any change in the culture of violence in the facility, it is necessary to reach the general population and especially the small minority who are on the negative path to power. Most of the violence at Sing Sing is related to ethnic conflict and drugs. If there is to be any change in the level of violence, it is vital to find a way to reach the ethnic groups and gangsters.

The guys who need to hear the message of peace the most are in the yards, smoking

dope and carrying razors in their mouths. The ones in gangs who believe it's cool to slash another human being and scar them for life. The ones who could care less about anti-violence, AVP or peace – unless you bring it home to them and make it real! These guys are not the enemies, they are the victims, victims of a wrong sense of right, and they are our responsibility. They are our target group.

We hope the information shared with you here will bring about the same effect in your facility. We believe you can do it. If you are reading this information it is clear that you have the stuff it takes to make a Violence Awareness Week happen in your facility. Good luck and keep the peace.

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## BACKGROUND STATEMENT

On December 24, 1995, Christmas Eve at Sing Sing, an inmate was stabbed to death in the A-Block Housing Unit at Sing Sing. The next day, Christmas Day, his mother, unaware of her son's death, came to the prison to visit him, only to be told that her son was dead. The pain and cries of this mother reached the ears and hearts of all prisoners at Sing Sing. Murderers, robbers and straight up thugs bowed their head in shame at this senseless killing and the pain of an innocent mother. Six hundred dollars was raised and donated to the mother from the prison population, the only means men in this position could offer as a symbol of an apology.

In January 1996, a group of Alternatives to Violence Facilitators gathered at their Annual Recognition Day Event and spoke of the mur-

der and started to think of ways to be more effective in curtailing violent situations in the prison. Perhaps we needed to do more than conduct workshops and hand out certificates.

Although many felt the violence would never change and the situation was hopeless and we decided that we needed to try anyway. This gave birth to a facility-wide campaign called the Peace Initiative. The Peace Initiative was supported by inmate organizations, committees and individuals throughout the facility. The group put up posters, talked to other prisoners in the yard and encouraged prisoners to sign a peace pledge for 60 days. Of course this was not the solution, but it was the start of men in prison saying "no" to senseless violence and the pain it causes our families.



## CAMPAIGN PLAN

This was the third year and we decided to focus the program on one intensive week rather than spreading it out over 60 days as in the first program.

### Campaign Goals:

- Reach out to the general population.
- Get families involved.
- Get the support of the educational and religious organizations within the facility.
- Ask the ethnic groups to support the program.
- Ask inmates to make a commitment to peace.

### Campaign Strategies:

- Make the program interesting and entertaining.
- Use activities that the general population enjoys such as sports and games
- Put the message so the general population understands such as music, rap, videos, cartoons, comic strips and posters.
- Bring in speakers who the inmates admire and respect, such as successful ex-inmates, leaders from organizations who support inmates such as the Fortune Society, and radio personalities who are popular with inmates.
- Appeal to the emotions as well as the intellect.

### Campaign Don'ts:

- Don't present this as an administration program. It must be seen as an inmate initiative.
- Don't present this as only an AVP program. It should be seen as representing all inmate groups.
- Don't use administration officials as spokesmen for the program or speakers at events.

### Reaching Out to Families

In order to get families involved, in previous

years, we had a program in the visiting room where we pinned white ribbons on adults to symbolize their support for the Peace Initiative and gave "Think Peace" stickers to children. We had also made "Peace Murals," where children and adults were invited to draw pictures and write messages on long rolls of colored paper three feet wide. As sections of the mural were finished, they were brought into the mess halls and school building to remind inmates of the message of peace from their families. This year, we decided to bring the families to the inmates by making a video in the visiting room and showing it in the auditorium.

### Beginning and Closing Programs

As in previous years, we decided to have opening and closing programs in the auditorium. The problem in previous years has been that the publicity had been weak and the attendance was only 150 to 200 inmates. These people tended to be the 10 percent who were already involved in programs and were already on a positive path. This was not the target audience we needed to reach.

This year we were determined to improve publicity and make a stronger appeal to our target group.

Sing Sing has a professional quality jazz group and several AVP leaders are members of band. We knew that they would draw a crowd so we signed them up.

In past years the program has included a skit or play. This year we contacted the Sing Sing Theater Workshop. Their previous performances had been hits with the population. They offered to write a play for the program



and each member of the large cast would bring many friends to the performance. Examples of skits are on pages 17-20.

We reached out to ethnic organizations and asked for their support. We recognized that ethnic associations can accomplish positive things as well as create conflict. We included peer leaders in the program and asked them to come on stage to show their support. We knew their associates would come with them.

We decided to write to outside speakers who the inmates respected and invite them to attend. A video with messages of peace from families in the visiting room was also planned as a key part of the program.

### **Tournaments and Games**

One common interest for most of the population is sports and games. In a way, games may be seen as conflict resolution tools. They are a positive way to channel competitive behavior rather than physical violence. We decided to have a series of tournaments every night in the Violence Awareness Week which would appeal to every need. To sign up for the tournaments, inmates had to attend the opening night program in the auditorium.

An important part of the program was to set up an information booth each evening where we could talk to participants about the positive programs that were available, hand out information and sign them up for programs.

### **Nonviolence Seminar**

As a new feature in 1998, a one day seminar with mini-workshops was planned to provide inmates with tools to deal with conflicts. This was scheduled for Saturday, in the middle of the one week program and participants who attended the initial program were asked

to sign up. The mini-workshops focused on the following areas:

1. Peer pressure
2. Violence in the Family
3. Prison Violence
4. Dealing with Conflicts

### **Peace Pledges**

Talking about nonviolence is one thing, but the culture of violence will not change until individuals make a personal commitment to nonviolence. In previous years, we had developed a Peace Pledge as a way of making this commitment. We decided it was important to include this in the 1998 campaign also.

On March 18 and 25, a standing room only audience of over 500 residents of Sing Sing gathered in the auditorium to support the 1998 Violence Awareness Week. Outside and inside leaders spoke about the power to change, the power to grow, the power to reach out to gangs, the power of peace. The Sing Sing drama group, Rehabilitation Through the Arts, presented a play dramatizing the consequences of violence. Prisoners saw the close-up images on a giant screen of children, brothers, sisters, wives and mothers urging them to stop the violence, to look for another way, to come home safe, to remember the families who are also the victims of prison violence. Prisoners heard a powerful message with their ears and eyes and hearts. Many were moved; tears came to some eyes; it was a powerful experience for all. Over 500 of the inmates made a commitment to nonviolence by signing Peace Pledges. The program was designed to communicate with prisoners in the language they understand.



*Activity  
Schedule*

## VIOLENCE AWARENESS WEEK

### Sing Sing Correctional Facility

✌ March 18 - 25, 1998 ✌

#### Scheduled Activities and Events

**March 18 Inaugural Program**

- ⇒ Wednesday, 6:00 PM
- ⇒ Chapel Auditorium
- ⇒ Inspirational Speakers  
(Community Guests,  
Inside Speakers)
- ⇒ Music, Skits and Poetry

**March 19 Chess Matches**

- ⇒ Thursday, 6:00 PM
- ⇒ School Building

**March 20 Domino Nite**

- ⇒ Friday, 6:00 PM
- ⇒ School Building

**March 21 Basketball Tourname**

- ⇒ Saturday, 6:00 PM
- ⇒ All recreational areas

**March 22 Basketball Tournament**

- ⇒ Sunday, 6:00 PM
- ⇒ All recreational areas

**March 23 Spades Match**

- ⇒ Monday, 6:00 PM
- ⇒ School Building

**March 24 Bingo Nite**

- ⇒ Tuesday, 6:00 PM
- ⇒ School Building

**March 25 Grand Finale**

- ⇒ Wednesday, 6:00 PM
- ⇒ Chapel Auditorium
- ⇒ Inspirational Speakers  
(Inside community)
- ⇒ Music, Skits, Poetry, Finale

**Prizes will be awarded to all the winners (thirsty?)!!!**

To participate in any of the tournaments, you must be present at the inaugural program on Wednesday, March 18, 1998, at 6:00 PM. Please show up on time, bring your ID card back and with I.D. card.

*Peace Pledge  
Form*

## Sing Sing Peace Pledge

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ pledge to make Sing Sing a safer, more peaceful place for me and my brothers and sisters for the next sixty days.
2. I pledge to think twice before reacting once.
3. A pledge to think how my fellow brothers and sisters, no matter what age, color or position would feel if I insulted them.
4. I pledge to find an alternative way to control my anger and not take it out on anyone else.
5. I pledge to speak to someone I trust when I have a problem.
6. I pledge to carry the word of peace to at least one other person.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ DIN \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## ORGANIZING THE PROGRAM

On March 18, 1998, the Peace Initiative Network commenced a seven-day program called The Violence Awareness Week. During that week we held two shows in the chapel area, conducted an Anti-Violence Seminar, and offered a host of recreational activities with prizes to the population at Sing Sing.

The program was the end result of three months of planning, hard work and commitment. In the end, we made Sing Sing history as the only anti-violence event to pack the chapel area with over 500 men on two different nights. We also tallied the same number of signed peace pledges, and connected over 250 prisoners to the available educational and vocational programs within the facility.

The conflict between ethnic groups and gangsters which was responsible for much of the violence within the facility was drastically reduced when we reached out to their leaders, who in turn, joined our cause. We, as concerned prisoners, took responsibility for the violence that was affecting our environment, and made a change.

### 1. The Stuff it Takes

**Support:** The trust, cooperation and support of the administration is absolutely vital to success. The proposal requires administration approval as well as cooperation in providing space, making call-outs, clearing printed materials, videos, speakers etc. At Sing Sing we were fortunate to have the support of our staff advisor, the Deputy Superintendent of Program, and other officials.

**Belief:** In order to make such an event a real-

ity you must have a group of people who believe in the purpose of what you are doing. No one can be an asset to this movement if they don't believe there's an alternative to violence. Without belief in this idea, commitment and determination will not follow. And these two elements are absolutely essential in making the event a success.

**Commitment:** This project requires a lot of hard work, sacrifice of time and constant building. The core group will have to dedicate, literally, three months of their lives to plan, build and execute this program to realize its full beauty. Any member who is not prepared to make a full commitment to this project would act as a liability to the rest of the group. Commitment must be practiced from the top and seen as an example to others with less active roles.

**Determination:** The core group is responsible for maintaining the determined attitude and keeping the group focused. If one aspect of the program is disapproved, try another, or accept that aspect as a dead issue. Do not allow small defeats or pessimistic attitudes to defeat your purpose. This is a project of love, and nothing can defeat the forces behind that. Thus, maintain the motto: "We're going to make this happen, regardless."

Besides all the above, you need a dedicated staff advisor who will act as emissary in areas you cannot reach. Like all other members of the group, the staff advisor must be in harmony with the goals of the group. He must also share the belief, commitment and determination of the core group.





## *How we got started:*

### *Program Statement*

On December 24, 1995, Christmas Eve, an inmate was stabbed to death in the A-Block Housing unit. The next day, Christmas Day, his mother, unaware of her son's death, came to the prison to visit him, only to be told her son was dead. The pain and cries of this mother reached the ears and hearts of all prisoners in Sing Sing. Murderers, Robbers and straight up thugs bowed their heads in shame at this senseless killing and the pain of an innocent mother. Six hundred dollars was raised and donated to the mother from the prison population, the only means men in this position could offer as a symbol of apology.

A group of Alternatives to Violence Facilitators gathered at their annual Recognition Day Event and spoke of the murder and started to think of ways to be more effective in curtailing violent situations in the prison. This gave birth to a campaign called the Peace Initiative, in which the group formed under the umbrella of the Peace Initiative Network (P.I.N.). The Peace Initiative Network consisted of all the inmate organizations and every organized committee and individual who was willing to support the concept. The group put up posters, talked to other prisoners in the yard and encouraged prisoners to sign a Peace Pledge.

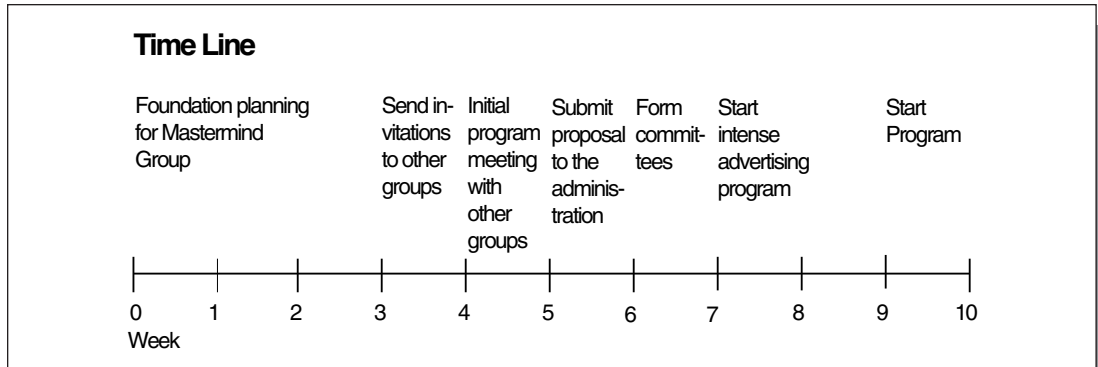
It started on May 12, 1996, Mother's Day, as a symbol that we remembered the mother's pain. It continued for the next sixty days, which gave the movement the alternative name, the 60 Days of Peace. Four Hundred and thirty-nine prisoners signed the peace pledges, and supported our efforts. Although violent acts did not cease in the prison, they did decrease and every prisoner had the concept of peace hung in their faces and minds for the two months the program continued.

Of course this was not the solution, but it was the start of men in prison saying "no" to senseless violence and the pain it cause our families.



A handwritten signature, located in the lower right quadrant of the page, below the heart.





## 2. History

Every movement has a history. This is a very important aspect of the program because it connects the program to the people of your target group. Without a substantial connection, support of this type of program would be extremely limited. During the Violence Awareness Week we connected the origin of our program with an incident in Sing Sing where an inmate was stabbed to death in one of the housing units several years ago. Another part of our connection dealt with the way the mother found out her son was murdered. She came to visit him in Christmas Day she learned her son was dead. This scenario presented real concerns for the prisoners that hit home:

1. Dying in prison, which we are all afraid of.
2. The pain it causes our families when the violence of prison goes home, whether it reaches our families through the words of the prison chaplain, telling them we're dead, or our homeboys, telling them we're in the box (SHU).

This history must, I repeat, must hit home with our target group.

## 3. The Mastermind Group

In all movements there must be a mastermind group. That group of individuals will have the vision and determination to make the project work. In the Violence Awareness Week Project, twelve AVP facilitators volunteered to serve in this mastermind group. We all had the "stuff it takes" outlined in section one to make this project a success. The following are the steps we took to establish ourselves before we invited anyone else to build with us.

**A.** We dedicated four weeks in order to develop a solid plan of action and a tentative program (January 1998), and agreed to meet each Tuesday evening to update each other. During this time, we created, rejected, and replaced possible program ideas. In the end we had a tentative program planned and submitted it to the administration for their review, support and approval.

**B.** After establishing our program, (the who, the what, the how, and the why,) we sent invitations to all inmate organizations, programs and religious groups so that they could join our efforts.





## Peace Initiative Network

354 Hunter Street

Ossining, New York 10562-5442

George French, Staff Advisor • School Building, 1st Floor • (914) 941-0108 ext. 718

3 February 1998

Dear Friends:

Once again, we embark upon our mission to take our duties in conflict resolution to another level with a program we plan to call the: Violence Awareness Week. We plan a week long program of events, shows and recreational activities. We would like you to join the ranks of the Peace Initiative Network in the planning of this great event. We will meet as a group in the A.V.P. office every Tuesday evening for the next few weeks, planning this event.

Please send two representatives from your group, for we have invited all active organizations, programs and religious groups to do the same. We hope to see you there.

Peace  
Initiative  
Invitation

Program  
Sponsors

## Who is the Peace Initiative Network? (P.I.N.)

The P.I.N. consists of various members of the Sing Sing population who are dedicated to "doing something" about the level of violence and apathy in our midst. It includes members of the following religious groups, organizations, and concerned parties:

- \* Alternatives to Violence Project
- \* Caribbean African Unity
- \* Catholic Community
- \* Hispanic Inmates Needs Program
- \* Inmate Liaison Committee
- \* Islamic Community
- \* Latinos Unidos
- \* N.A.A.C.P.
- \* Nation of Islam (N.O.I.)
- \* New Mind Jaycees
- \* New York Theological Seminary (MPS and CMP alumni and students)
- \* Pre-Release Center (P.R.C.)
- \* Protestant Community
- \* Rastafarian Community
- \* Sing Sing Music Department
- \* Sing Sing Recreational Department
- \* Youth Awareness Program (Y.A.P.)
- \* Hundreds of non-affiliated but concerned individuals

You can be a part of this network too! Just think before you act, dedicate yourself to the non-violent solution and make sure to educate yourself and your community about the ravages and damage that senseless violence creates!

**May the Creator Bless You All!!**



It was important to know exactly what we wanted to do and how we wanted to do it before we invited others to join us. We wanted to establish the larger group with a focus and a sense of proper planning to lead us through what would undoubtedly be hard work.

The mastermind group was responsible for attending all meetings and knowing the full details of every part of the program plan.

#### **4. Invite Others to Participate**

During our first meeting with the invited emissaries, we laid out our vision of the program and how we intended to make it a reality. We also made several things clear from the outset:

**A.** The program would come under the umbrella of the Peace Initiative Network (PIN), which encompassed and named each organization, program and religious group as a part of that network.

**B.** Meetings would be held every Tuesday evening until a week prior to the program, at that time members should visit the office at least once a day.

**C.** members must agree to take on at least one committee and take full responsibility of the duties thereof.

After these preliminaries, the core group explained the program from start to finish. From that point, the group as a whole fine tuned the program, with additions and adjustments. When we were in agreement with the program, we broke the program down into six different components:

A. Proposal Writing Committee

B. Outreach Committee

C. Publicity Committee

D. Entertainment Committee

E. Recreation Committee

F. Information Committee

At the conclusion of the meeting each member committed themselves to one or more of the listed committees, and pledged to build that area of the program until the results were realized.

#### **5. Assign Members of Group to Committees**

Each committee was given three weeks to complete their task. The following were the committees established and their functions.

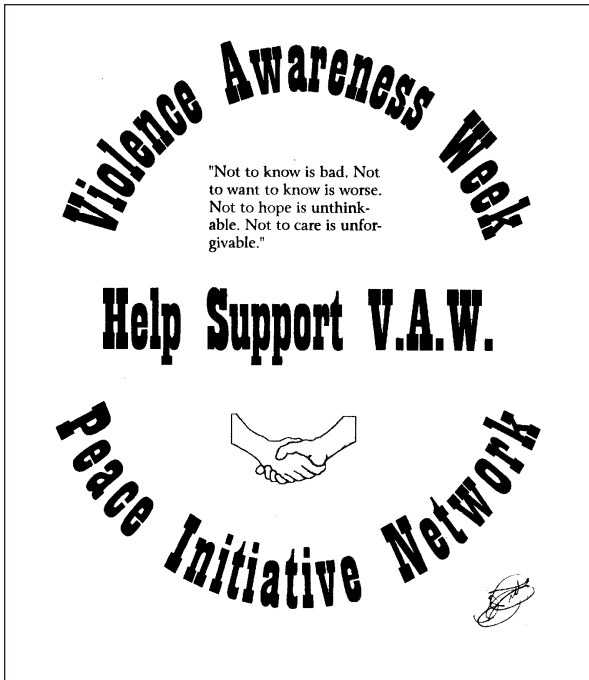
##### **A. Proposal Writing Committee**

We submitted our draft proposal five weeks prior to the event. This put us within the required guidelines of the state directive which requires a proposal to be submitted thirty days in advance. This committee was also responsible for submitting all aspects of the administrative proposals and memos connected with the project to the administration for approval.

##### **B. Outreach Committee**

We felt it was important to talk to ethnic group and peer leaders. As part of the program, Peace Initiative leaders had the courage to sit down with the peer leaders to discuss the problem. They were surprised to find that the peer leaders felt that most of the violence was senseless also. And the Peace Initiative leaders convinced them to come to the program in the auditorium and stand up before 500 inmates to tell them to stop the violence.

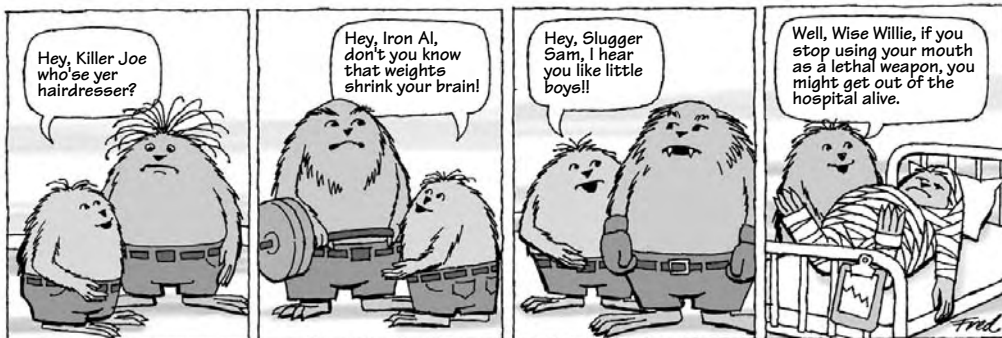




Cover of  
Peace  
Initiative  
Flyer

Violence Awareness Cartoon  
For other cartoons see page 20.

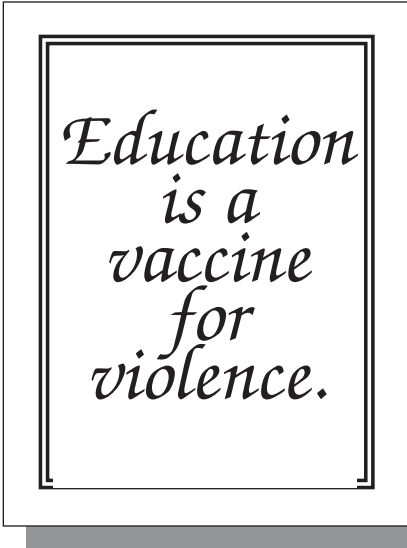
## LETHAL WEAPON



Real men don't put others down... There's another alternative. **Support the Sing Sing Violence Awareness Week**



*Positive  
quotations  
For other  
quotations  
see back  
cover*



*Education  
is a  
vaccine  
for  
violence.*

### **C. Publicity Committee**

This committee was responsible for giving visual life to the program through flyers, information, pictures, posters and wisdom. It was this committee who typed up the history of the movement. They also arranged our list of scheduled activities and events. This committee commissioned artists to draw comic strips to communicate our message and draw up a ten question self analysis test. They also prepared positive quotations that were handed out to inmates. (See back cover)

All our flyers, banners, posters and handouts were conceived and created by this committee. Access to a computer and typewriter are essential, for at least one member, for this committee to be effective.

There was also a Violence Awareness Week count down chart which measured 22" x 28" and held seven pages (a page for each day) with words of wisdom.

### **D. Entertainment Committee**

The members of this committee were responsible for decorating the stage, timing the speakers and other entertainment held on the stage. They were also responsible for:

1. Hospitality for the stage and guests.
2. Assignment of seats to the outside guests, who sat off stage and the ushers who would accommodate them.
3. Refreshments for the guests.

This committee also entered the facility visiting room on two occasions and videotaped messages of peace from the families of men in the population. There were mothers, wives and children pleading for the men to stop the violence. The video was a ten minute take and was shown during our chapel program on March 18, 1998. The impact was phenomenally emotional.

*Poster with message that changes daily*



**VIOLENCE AWARENESS  
WEEK**

**DAY FOUR**

**"THE WISEST OF MEN  
ARE THOSE  
WHO RECOGNIZE  
THEIR NEED  
TO CHANGE."**



## Self Analysis Test

**THIS IS A SELF ANALYSIS TEST TO TAKE BACK TO YOUR CELL  
OR CUBE TO ANSWER HONESTLY TO YOURSELF.**

1. What are your Goals and what are you doing to reach them?
2. Is there anything you had like to, or need to change in your life?
3. What are some of the things you value?
4. Are you most important to your family in the streets or behind bars?
5. How do you view the world, and your participation in it?
6. Are you a leader or a follower?
7. Does drugs define a person's value of how they truly feel about themselves?
8. What makes you a man?
9. Is Education important for you to take care of your family and their survival?
10. If you were to die right now, What can you leave behind as a recognition that you were here?

**MALCOM SAID, "TO HAVE BEEN A CRIMINAL IS  
NOT A DISGRACE, IT'S TO REMAIN A CRIMINAL, NOW THAT'S THE DISGRACE!"**

## Positive Programs for Inmates

### SCHOOL PROGRAMS

**Literacy Volunteers of America (L.V.A.)**  
This class addresses the needs of about second grade reading. Students are given assistance by inmate tutors, and are taught in small groups.  
Tutors are also needed for this program and the prerequisite is a High School G.E.D.

**ADULT BASIC EDUCATION (A.B.E.)**  
This class facilitates the needs of students reading levels between 2.0 and 4.9. The class provides instruction in reading, writing, arithmetic skills. Instruction is offered in a variety of ways to suit the needs of the participants, one, small groups, and large groups.

**ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (E.S.L.)**  
This educational opportunity allows students to learn English as a second language. Most of the class speak their native language, E.S.L. of English and the basic rules so that can be communicating in the English speaking world. The techniques used to meet these goals in groups, and conversational experiences.

**PRE G.E.D.**  
This program serves students with reading to 7.9. It prepares students with the need information for the five G.E.D. exams (Math, Social Studies, Science, Literature).

**G.E.D.**  
This class serves students with 8.0 and up. It prepares students for the G.E.D. exam practice G.E.D. exam books, which includes background information for the G.E.D. exam (Math, Social Studies, Science, Literature).

**A.A.A.T.**  
This program addresses the needs of students with past or present drug addiction. The program is educational and part group therapy. There are videos, written assignments, group discussions, and educational lectures. Tapan has a Residential Program (the participants live in the same place). Up-the-still has the Nine Out-Patient groups. Participants are expected to take part in A.A./N.A. therapy groups (12-12 Twelve Steps).

### Inmate Program Associates

This program creates a school diploma or general interpersonal skills and vocational training.

I.P.A. graduates are on the prison employment market higher pay grade.

The program assignments most frequently are teacher peer counselors. (No, the program, can be reached on the Men's Informational Network).

This network facilitates prisoners. It also acts as a service for inmates such as: A. consultation referrals and reached on the school 3rd floor.

### Law Library

Offers prisoners the resources for whatever legal problems they have for assistance and runner at prisoners and other prison school building.

Call outs should be made Alternatives to Violence Project.

A volunteer program of participants can examine the alternative actions. It is explores alternatives to violence through cooperative Transferring Power.

### NEW YORK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT SING-SING CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

#### Master of Professional Studies Degree in Ministry

"Since the academic year 1982-83, New York has offered an intensive 42-credit grad designed for prisoners in the New York facilities.

To be eligible the applicant must have a completed an accredited bachelor's degree, for graduate work, and have strong recommendation from a prison chaplain."

(1997-1999 New York Theological Seminary)

#### Certificate in Ministry Program

"The Certificate in Ministry Program is program, equivalent to one year of college therefore will require of you continued reflection, even in the midst of the noise of the Correctional Facility. It will give a learning community of men who want to learn and your personal study, you will and understanding, in skills of writing, discussion. If you have completed the course the certificate that will verify and you you have achieved the goals of the program."

(Certificate in Ministry Program)

**NOTE:** For more information on the Certificate Program or an application contact of the Academic School Building.

For more information on the Master of Professional Studies Degree in Ministry Program or an application contact of the office in the Chapel.

### VOCATIONAL

**General Business:** Teaches the use of various software like Lotus, Word, Windows, Ampro, etc. teaches you what is MS-DOS, and DOS commands; clerical and accounting skills; the use of various office machinery.

**Industrial Maintenance:** Teaches how to properly strip and wax floors; use of proper cleaning materials and techniques for maintenance of various floor surfaces; how to use various floor maintenance machinery (buffers, high speed buffers, vacuum cleaners, etc.); cleaning of various areas (i.e., bathrooms, restrooms, etc.) that require sanitary maintenance.

**Small Engine Repair:** Maintenance, rebuilding and repair of lawn-mower motors, weed-eaters, basically single and two-stroke motors.

**Computer Repair & Refurbishing:** Upgrading and repair of computers & printers, software installation and troubleshooting.

**Electrical Trades:** Teaches residential wiring, how to mount power sources, lay conduits, set up power outlets, junction boxes, light switches, lighting etc.

**Printing:** Teaches plate burning, dark-room negative shooting, stripping and layout, binding and cutter fabrication, offset press production, collating, and computer layout and desk top publishing for press jobs.

**Welding:** Teaches various welding process: TIG, MIG, ARC, oxy-acetylene welding, pipe welding; all welding positions material fabrication, print reading, and use of various welding rods for welding different kinds of metal and in different positions. Possibly, basic instruction in metallurgy.



The procedure used to effect this videotaping was simply a written request to the Deputy Superintendent of Program, outlining what we wanted to do, as well as why and how it was relevant to the program. The administration set up a screening process to see that appropriate language was used.

Our position was clear, we wanted the message of anti-violence to come in all forms: from outside speakers, plays, skits, music and from the mouths of our own families.

### **E. Recreation Committee**

Since we wanted to make this event a week long program, we included tournaments and scheduled them between our inaugural program and our grand finale. The committee that was responsible for this aspect of the program was the recreation committee.

This committee helped to create and advertise the activities, and collected the names of those who signed up at the March 18 inaugural program. This committee also set up and supervised all the game activities.

At the conclusion of the program, March 25, the committee distributed prizes to the tournament winners. In essence, they were responsible for all aspects of the game activities.

### **F. Information Committee**

This committee served two purposes:

1. They were responsible for collecting information on all educational and vocational programs. They also gathered data on inmate organizations, and other areas of program concerns. This committee then prepared the information for distribution within the population.

2. The second purpose this committee served was to set up "Violence Awareness Information Booths" in the gyms and the auditorium each evening during the campaign. The administration cleared volunteers to man the booths as well as approved the appropriateness of the materials offered.

These booths distributed information, cartoons and flyers about the program. In addition, we obtained information booklets and flyers about HIV, drug and alcohol treatment, pre-release programs and other services which were available. Each information booth was decorated with a tablecloth and banner.

We were surprised to see how much of this information was taken with good intent. At the end of the evening, none of this information was found on the floor.

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AVP wishes to give special thanks the Executive Team at Sing Sing for their cooperation and support with the Peace Initiative Program.





## RESOURCES

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### Skits

The following are three skits that were used either on stage at the beginning program or on the in-house closed circuit TV.

### The Telephone

*by Fernando Serrano*

**Situation:** Two guys are walking down a hallway towards each other. Once they get close together, they greet each other with a handshake and a hug.

**First Guy:** Hey, man, what's up?

**Second Guy:** Not much, you?

**First Guy:** You know, hanging in there.

**Second Guy:** So what's new?

**First Guy:** Not much, you know same ole, same ole.

**Second Guy:** Yeah, I know what you mean! Listen, check this out, have you seen Freddy lately?

**First Guy:** Man, ain't you heard?

**Second Guy:** Heard what?

**First Guy:** Man, I think you better come with me.

**Second Guy:** Where?

**First Guy:** Just follow me.

The two guys walk into a room, the camera follows what appears to be a telephone cord going into a casket. The body inside the casket is that of Freddy.

**First Guy:** Man. Freddy's dead!!!

**Second Guy:** That's right man, he died over the phone! (Pause for a moment or so) Since he died for it, he might as well take it with him.

**First Guy:** Damn! (Pause and look into the camera)

Is it worth it???



## The Headache

- Situation:** A man is being interviewed. His head all bandaged up, he has a black eye and he is wearing one arm in a sling. The goal is to dramatize the negative consequences of using “you messages.”
- Interviewer:** Hey Spike, what happened to you?
- Man:** I was beat up by some words.
- Interviewer:** Whatcha mean, you was beat up by some words? I never heard of anybody getting beat up by words. That's impossible.
- Man:** Well, I didn't think it was possible either, but here's some words that hurt me.  
(Holds up card with the word "ALWAYS")
- Interviewer:** How could "ALWAYS" hurt you?
- Man:** Well, it happened after the championship game we lost. I told my buddy on the team, "You always hog the ball."  
And then I said, "You're so clumsy that you never hit a single free throw."  
(Holds up card with the word "NEVER")
- Interviewer:** Is that how you got the black eye?
- Man:** Yea! And then I got in trouble with "YOU".  
(Holds up card with the word "YOU")  
I said, "You missed an easy lay up and we would have won the game except for you."  
"It wasn't my fault that I got called for tripping their star player. He deserved it. And besides, the ref was blind."  
And then I got in trouble with "OUGHT".  
(Holds up card with the word "OUGHT")  
I said, "You ought to have helped me when I got in the fight with the ref."
- Interviewer:** Is that how you got your head bashed in?
- Man:** And then I said, "It isn't my fault that their star got lucky and sank both free throws."  
"It was just my bad luck that I missed that last shot before the buzzer that would have tied the game."  
And then I told my buddy, "You should be glad that I was willing to be on your team and you shouldn't be such a sore loser."  
(Holds up card with the word "SHOULD")



**Interviewer:** I guess that's how you got your broken arm.  
(Closeup of interviewer)  
Well, I don't know whether Spike will ever learn anything about the language he uses.  
What I've learned is these are the words that make people angry and defensive. (Picks up the cards from the table) These are the words that are absolutely guaranteed to start a fight.  
I don't want to end up looking like Spike. (Throws cards in the trash can) I'm going to get these words out of my vocabulary. I'm going to stop blaming others.  
Besides, how can I keep my job as the anchorman for the Peace Initiative Net work if my face looks like a road map?

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## The Santa Claus

**Situation:** An old man with a long white, Santa Claus beard is being interviewed by two people. The object is to dramatize the negative consequences of violence.

**Interviewer 1:** Hey, who's that old man with the white beard?

**Interviewer 2:** I think that's Killer Smith. I haven't seen him for over 20 years.

**Interviewer 1:** Killer Smith? I thought he got out long ago.  
(Killer Smith enters)  
Hey Killer, Where've you been?

**Old Man:** Well... I've been on keeplock for 27 years.

**Interviewer 2:** I thought you came in her with a short bid

**Old Man:** Yea, I just came to jail for auto theft. I stole a new Harley from in front of a biker bar in 1963. I wanted to give it to my wife, Mildred, for Christmas.

**Interviewer 2:** Then what happened?

**Old Man:** Well... I just kept getting in fights and I got more time. It's just been one fight after the other. I really didn't mean to hurt those people. And then I got unlucky and ended up with a body. Before I knew it, 30 years was gone.

**Interviewer 1:** And what happened to your wife and kids?

**Old Man:** Well... Mildred left me. Haven't had a visit since 1965. She ended up marrying a guy with a Harley. They bought a condo on the beach in Florida.

**Interviewer 2:** And where are your kids?



**Old Man:** Well... My daughter, Nancy married a lawyer and I hear they're doing well on Wall Street. She has returned all my letters unopened ever since she got married. I guess she doesn't want anyone to know her dad's in jail.

And my son George... He moved to California. He's into computers and has something to do with Silicon Valley. He hasn't accepted a single telephone call since he graduated from college. Anyway, he just talks about Gigabites, RAM and Internet sites. I don't understand a damn word he says. These computers are so confusing.

**Interviewer 1:** Well Killer, it's good to see you again. Hope you see the streets again before you die. (Closeup)

I don't know about you, but I've decided that I'm not going to follow in Killer Smith's footsteps. I'm going to see the streets again... and I'm going to see my wife and kids too. Violence is not the way out of jail.

Besides, I'm looking for a job as an anchorman on the street at CNN, not PIN, the Peace Initiative Network at Sing Sing.

## Cartoons

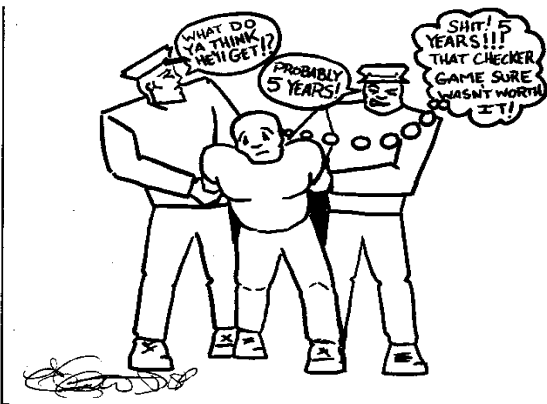
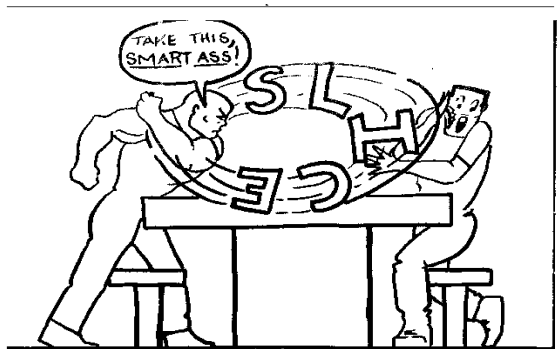
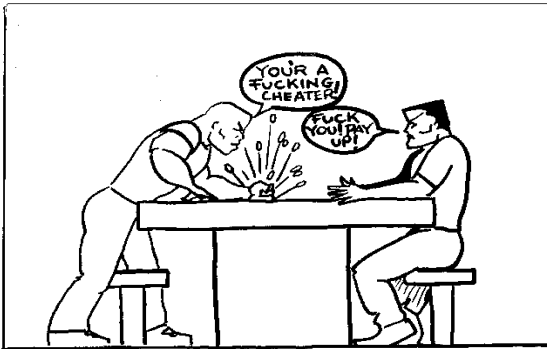
These cartoons were designed to communicate the message of peace in a form the inmates could understand.

### HANDSOME HARRY



Real men don't dis' others... There's another alternative. **Support the Sing Sing Violence Awareness Week**





## LONELY SPIKE

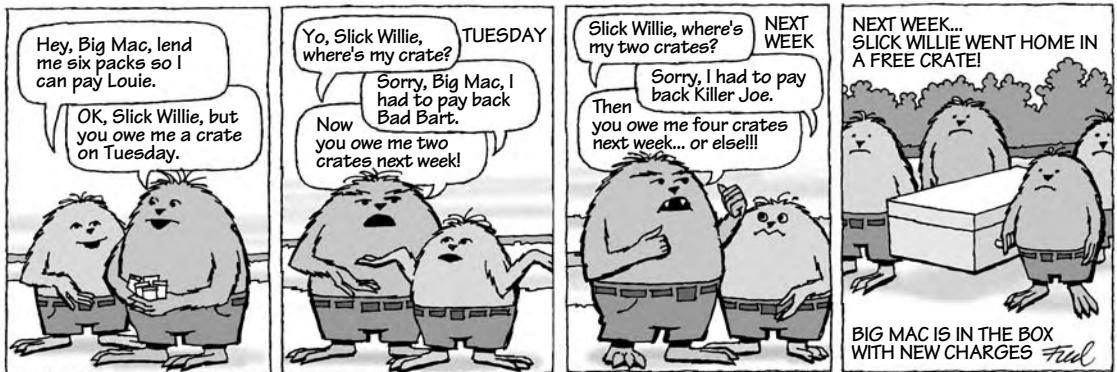


Real men don't need to be strapped. There is another alternative... **Support Violence Awareness Week!**



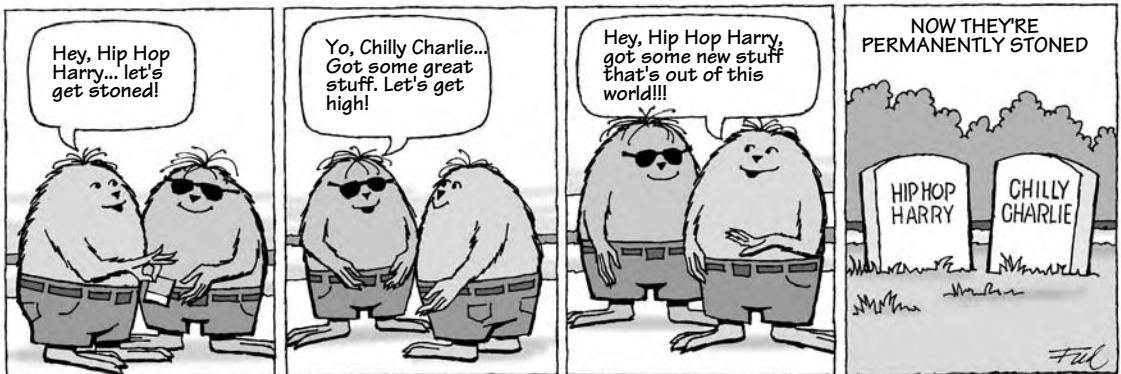
NOTE: To reproduce these cartons with one cartoon on an 8/12"x 11" sheet, enlarge each cartoon to 150%.

## THE FREE CRATE



Cancer is not the only way cigarettes can kill! There is another alternative. **Support Violence Awareness Week.**

## GETTING STONED



Real men don't do drugs! There is another alternative. **Support the Sing Sing Violence Awareness Week.**







## ROCKY GETS LAID



Only losers take revenge! There is another alternative. Support the Sing Sing Violence Awareness Week.



To reproduce these quotations, four to an 8 1/2" x 11" page, enlarge 300%

*Education  
is a  
vaccine  
for  
violence.*

*If you  
judge  
people  
you have  
no time to  
love them.*

*Never fear  
shadows.  
They simply  
mean there's  
a light  
shining  
nearby.*

*Self is  
the only  
prison  
that  
can bind  
the soul.*

*Everyone is  
a fool for at  
least five min-  
utes every day.  
Wisdom con-  
sists of not  
exceeding  
the limit.*

*A man  
can't ride  
your back  
unless it's  
bent.*

*The difference  
between the  
impossible and  
the possible  
lies in a  
person's  
determination.*

*The wise  
man must  
be wise  
before....  
not after....*

*An eye for  
an eye will  
leave us  
all  
blind.*

*Reputation  
is a bubble  
which a man  
bursts when  
he tries to  
blow it for  
himself.*

*A very great  
part of the  
mischiefs  
that vex this  
world arises  
from words.*

*What lies  
behind us and  
what lies  
before us are  
small matters  
compared to  
what lies  
within us.*

*The truth  
of the matter  
is that you  
always  
know the  
right thing  
to do.*

*Not to  
know is bad.  
Not to want to  
know is worse.  
Not to hope is  
unthinkable.  
Not to care is  
unforgivable.*

*The devil is easy  
to identify. He  
appears when  
you're terribly  
tired and makes  
a very reasonable  
request which  
you know you  
shouldn't grant.*

*It is not  
truth that  
makes man  
great, but  
man who  
makes truth  
great.*

